

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

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Claim 23 (New): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan configured of a layer having both sealing and strengthening characteristics, said oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and
- c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

Claim 24 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said oil pan further comprises an additional layer.

Claim 25 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 24, wherein said additional layer is a plasma coating on said oil pan.

Claim 26 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein the first, second or both mating surfaces includes a primer.

Claim 27 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said molded plastic oil pan is further configured with one or more integrally formed clips that align the molded plastic oil pan with the engine component.

Claim 28 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 27, wherein said adhesive is a cure on demand adhesive that cures upon application of a separate operation.

Claim 29 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

Claim 30 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 31 (New): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface and one or more integrally formed clips, wherein said one or more integrally formed clips align said molded plastic oil pan with said engine component when engaged with said one or more cutout portions formed on said engine component; and
- c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

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Claim 32 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said one or more cutout portions are formed on an interior portion of the engine component.

Claim 33 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 32, wherein said one or more clips are adjacently formed interior to said second mating surface.

Claim 34 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said adhesive is a cure on demand adhesive that cures upon application of a separate operation.

Claim 35 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

Claim 36 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 37 (New): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and
- c) a cure-on-demand adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein said cure-on-demand adhesive cures upon application of a separate operation, and wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

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Claim 38 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said separate operation comprises rupturing an encapsulated curing agent located adjacent to said adhesive.

Claim 39 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said separate operation comprises removing a protective seal to expose the adhesive to ambient conditions.

Claim 40 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said separate operation comprises an application of heat.

Claim 41 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said separate operation comprises an application of infrared light or ultraviolet light.

Claim 42 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said separate operation comprises an application of radio frequency.

Claim 43 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said separate operation comprises an application of moisture.

Claim 44 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

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Claim 45 (New): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.
